THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Held 19 January 1920.

Previous to the Annual Meeting the following Annual Report and Balance Sheet were circulated by means of the Society's *News Sheet*.

ANNUAL REPORT

Like the rest of the world the Bibliographical Society has found the last twelvemonth unusually difficult, and perhaps all that can be claimed in this Annual Report is that it has been successfully kept going. Vol. XIV of our *Transactions* has been issued, the *Bibliography of Landor*, and the second volume of Prof. Carleton Brown's *Register of Middle English Religious Verse* are all in type, and most of the copy for *Transactions*, Vol. XV, has been sent to the printer. Our monthly meetings have been fairly well attended. Twenty-two new British Members have been elected.

All this shows that the Society is thoroughly alive, but it does not seem possible at present to see ahead with sufficient certainty to find a trustworthy financial basis for a new programme of work. Some increase in the annual subscription in the near future seems inevitable, and the Society will be asked to decide as to this at a special meeting, held before one of the ordinary meetings, in the course of the year. Meanwhile it is recommended that the Roll of the Society shall still be kept open in view of possible resignations should the subscription be raised.

The only important change now to be announced is that in order to print the papers read before the Society much

more quickly than has hitherto been possible, our *Transactions* will henceforth be published in quarterly parts, probably in March, June, September, and December, and by way of lessening the cost of this it is proposed to permit copies to be bought by non-members and to accept advertisements. How much extra matter besides the papers read before the Society can be printed will depend on finance, but it is hoped that room will at least be found for a record of the chief bibliographical books published and for reviews. It is hoped, also, that *The Library*, founded by Sir John MacAlister in 1888, which has already enjoyed a longer life than any other British periodical of the kind, may be brought into the scheme, and that the quarterly numbers may be gradually worked up into a full bibliographical magazine.

As a result of the projected quarterly publication of our *Transactions* the Society's *News Sheet*, started by Mr. Pollard at the beginning of his Secretaryship, will shortly cease to appear.

In order that the difference in the prices of our older books and those now being printed may not be too glaring the Council has sanctioned small increases in the charges for the older publications, rising to 50 per cent. in the case of those of which the stock is now much reduced. On the other hand the price of Vols. VII—X of our *Transactions*, of which there are rather more copies in stock than of the later volumes, has been temporarily reduced from 10s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. each, and the Index to Vols. I—X from 6s. to 4s. 6d. It is hoped that members who have joined the Society since these were issued will help our finances by buying them. This lowered price comes into force at once, the increases as soon as the new prices are circulated in the forthcoming reprint of our List of Members. Until that is issued such of our books as are not reserved for sale in sets can be bought at the old prices.

BALANCE SHEET

From 1 January to 31 December 1919.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance (1 Jan., 1919) +			Printing, Paper, Casing, and		
£100 on Deposit . . .	500	13 5	Distribution . . .	546	3 6
British Entrance Fees . . .	22	1 0	Rent . . .	23	2 0
British Subs., 1916-1918 . . .	30	9 0	Expenses of Meetings . . .	12	4 6
„ 1919 . . .	245	14 0	Income Tax . . .	2	0 6
„ 1920 . . .	13	13 0	Bank Charges . . .	0	9 7
British Life Member . . .	12	12 0	Hon. Treasurer (for Petty		
Interest on Deposit and In-			Cash) . . .	4	0 0
vestments . . .	14	7 11	Secretarial Expenses, 1918 . . .	2	19 0
Sale of Publications to Mem-			„ „ 1919 . . .	2	14 6
bers . . .	118	16 11	U.S.A. Hon. Treasurer's Ex-		
United States Entrance Fees			penses (= Subscription) . . .	1	1 0
and Subscriptions . . .	191	16 4	Insurance . . .	1	11 9
Foreign Subs., 1919 . . .	6	5 9	Research Work . . .	25	0 0
„ 1920 . . .	2	1 1	Expenses for Society's Li-		
			brary . . .	5	8 0
			Cheque returned . . .	1	1 0
			Balance at Bank (31 Dec.,		
			1919) + £100 on Deposit.	530	15 1
	£1,158	10 5		£1,158	10 5

R. F. SHARP, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Examined with vouchers and found correct.

ALEXR. NEALE.

JAMES P. R. LYELL.

3 January 1920.

ASSETS.			LIABILITIES.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
£300 2½% Consols Bonds @			Estimated liability for 27		
£51 . . .	153	0 0	Life Members . . .	283	10 0
£100 3½% New South Wales			Subscriptions received in ad-		
Bond . . .	88	0 0	vance . . .	13	13 0
£100 5% Exchequer Bond . . .	98	0 0	Estimated cost of completing		
Estimated value of Stock of			and sending out books for		
Publications . . .	800	0 0	the year and other printing	500	0 0
Balance of Account for 1919	530	15 1			
Subscriptions in arrear, about	3	3 0			

ANNUAL MEETING

The Society held its Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting at 4.45 p.m. on Monday, 19 January 1920, under the shadow of a great loss, Sir William Osler, its President for seven years, who had done more than any other man to keep it alive during the War, having died, after the Annual Report was in the hands of members, on 29 December 1919.

In the absence of a President Sir Frederic Kenyon, V.P., Director of the British Museum, was called to the Chair, and conducted the business of the first part of the Annual Meeting.

The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were taken as read, and after remarks on the Balance Sheet by Mr. R. F. Sharp and on the Report by Mr. Redgrave, their adoption was moved from the chair and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to Mr. A. W. Pollard for his work on the *News Sheet* during the last 26 years was proposed from the chair and carried by acclamation.

Mr. P. S. Allen proposed the re-election of the Officers and Council of the Society, Dr. Henry Thomas taking the place of Mr. Charles Sayle as a Member of Council. This was seconded by Mr. Bourdillon and carried.

Sir Frederic Kenyon proposed the election of Mr. Falconer Madan as President of the Society. This was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Falconer Madan, having taken the chair, proposed the following resolution :

‘That this Society records its gratitude for the conspicuous services rendered by its late President, Sir William Osler, during his seven years’ tenure of office, and its deep sense of the loss occasioned by his death alike to Medicine, Literature, and Bibliography.’

In proposing this resolution Mr. Madan said : Sir William Osler's many friends had indulged in the hope that after his 70th birthday, so finely celebrated in London on 11 July 1919, he would have gradually put aside, not his aims or his energy, but what may be termed the decorative part of his honours and work, and would have given some ten, or even twenty years of vigorous life and mellow wisdom to subjects in which his abiding interests lay. As he himself said, on the occasion referred to, the love of his life had been given equally to books and men, and in both he would have delighted to the end. But it was not to be.

Of his eminence in his own profession, of his powers of mind and memory, his faculty of organizing and his unmeasured friendliness and sympathy, much has been written since his death : but of his passion for the history and literature of Medicine, for old and interesting books in general, and for the bibliography of them, hardly enough. Few notices of him have even mentioned that he was the President of this Society for the last seven years, and took an active part in its proceedings and in safeguarding its interests and life during the troublous times of the War.

To the Bodleian he was a firm and constant friend : the Library was his admiration and delight, and as a Curator and a member of the Standing Committee he had considerable influence on its administration. He promoted the establishment of the room for students of music, as well as the Science Research Room at the Camera, and when a good opportunity for a special purchase presented itself he was among the first to offer liberal support and to engage the interest of friends. Perhaps no part of the Library appealed more to his feelings than the wonderful collection of books, grave and gay, massive and light, out-of-the-way and trivial, which came to the Bodleian under the will of Robert Burton, the author of the immortal *Anatomy of Melancholy*. That collection

contains the sources of a work which more than any other combined Sir William's chief interests—humanity, literature, and medicine. It cannot be doubted that had he been spared for a further period of leisure and activity, he would have carried out a scheme which was near to his heart and of which he often used to talk to the present speaker—the preparation of a final edition of that great Oxford work, based on a collation of the early editions (to be undertaken by a committee of friends), and furnished with annotations by the master's hand.

But it is impossible to close even these few words without dwelling for a moment on the larger features of Osler's life. His experience led him to the view that a man is sane morally at 30, rich mentally at 40, wise spiritually at 50, if ever; and that his really effective work is done between the ages of 25 and 40. Among his avowed principles three at least were prominent, and in their simplest form were these: to do the day's work well, not caring overmuch for the morrow; to obey the golden rule, 'do as you would be done by', towards friends and patients; and to acquire equanimity alike in success and sorrow. If he came to you as a friend, he had a way of drawing up his chair to yours, as though all his time were at your disposal, with looks and words of infinite compassion, if you were in ill case, of helpful encouragement if you were striving against hindrances, and sympathetic comprehension if you were in doubt and difficulty. These qualities are akin to the divine. Sir William's friends all over the world feel his loss with personal pain and imperishable regret, not only from his great and varied gifts of mind and intellect, but more than all because those gifts were combined with real human kindness of heart, and because his whole life was devoted to the welfare and betterment of his fellow men.

The motion was seconded by Sir d'Arcy Power, who bore testimony to the wonderful versatility of Sir W. Osler's mind, and supported by Mr. P. S. Allen, who said that hardly

a week passed during Sir William's residence in Oxford without his spending some hours in the Bodleian Library; and not only there was his love of his books shown, but also at Corpus, at Merton, and at Ewelme. His interest never seemed to cease in any matter where books were concerned. His own library was collected, not as a series of treasures by reason of their rarity or obvious arts, but because he regarded them as instruments for the advancement of knowledge.

The motion was carried, the members rising silently in their places to signify their assent.

The Annual Meeting was then closed.

MR. WINSHIP'S ANNUAL LETTER ON BIBLIOGRAPHICAL WORK
IN THE UNITED STATES

The important bibliographical event of the year in the United States is the appearance of the 'Check List of English Literature before 1640' in Mr. Henry E. Huntington's library. It is issued in unpretentious form, as befits an incidental preliminary to a catalogue which is already well in hand, and which hopes to improve upon that of the E. D. Church library, which is to be embodied in it. The Huntington Check List is none the less a model, better than any other of equal extent, of how to list the possessions of a library. The titles are abbreviated, but not beyond the point of ready identification nor of sufficient suggestion of contents. The summary collations give exactly what, and all, any one needs in order to test the completeness of another copy. Where the compilers are aware of variations in copies that might be supposed to be identical, the precise word or page that needs to be examined is succinctly and specifically set forth.

'A Thackeray Library' is a catalogue of a private collection prepared by the owner, Mr. H. S. Van Duzer, with such intelligence and thoroughness that it is assured permanent

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value as a bibliography. It has most of the technical faults that one expects in titles of books put together by the non-professional collector with the aid of his book-selling friends and without that of competent proof readers. The fact that these faults are so common is the best evidence that scarcely any one ever notices such details as inconsistency in alphabetizing or in the arrangement of title-entries and collations, and that consequently these things do not greatly matter. They ordinarily mean that the printing bill was larger than it need have been, but so long as the payer does not object, the user need not. Mr. Van Duzer has made his catalogue a real bibliography by including, without typographical distinction, all of the very few titles that he has failed to secure as yet, and by stating in the notes whatever he knows about the publication of each work.

Two catalogues have appeared during the year that have been awaited with keen anticipations, that of the Harry Elkins Widener Collection and Part I of Volume I of the John Carter Brown Library. The Widener books, about 3,500 volumes, are described in five volumes. Two of these contain in alphabetical order the headings, which are not always the author's name, omitting Cruikshank, Dickens, and Stevenson, each of whom has a separate volume. The plan of the catalogue was determined by Mr. Widener in the *Catalogue of some of the more important Books, Manuscripts, and Drawings* in his possession, which he prepared himself and issued in 1910, three years after he graduated from college. It is a model of devoted diligence and painstaking accuracy. In accordance with this standard the completed catalogue gives for such entries as the folio editions of Beaumont and Fletcher, Jonson, and Shakespeare, the number of the page on which each play begins and ends. It describes with approximate consistency each of the other title entries, which vary in character from the works of 'Lewis Carroll' and Kate

Greenaway to those of Charles Mathews and Rowlandson. For these as well as for most of the better known English and American authors, this catalogue gives a considerable amount of detail not ordinarily included in similar works.

The Stevenson volume of the Widener Catalogue was distributed in 1913, and has won its place through the importance of the collection and the care with which the books are described. The Dickens volume does not approach this in completeness, but compensates for its shortcomings in part by printing the text of a series of contracts between Dickens and Chapman & Hall, which give the collection some of its distinction. These relate to *Pickwick Papers* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, dated 18 November 1837, *Sketches by Boz* and *Master Humphrey's Clock*, 31 March 1840, *Oliver Twist*, 2 July 1840, and *Martin Chuzzlewit*, 7 September 1841. The Cruikshank volume of 279 pages describes 3,050 separate items, imprints, plates, drawings, and autographs, by, ascribed to, or associated with the men of that family. A plate signed 'Mary Cruikshank' came to light after the catalogue was printed. In nearly every instance the provenance of the item is given, and as most of these came from the Douglass, Galloway, Truman, and Bement collections, and many of them have George Cruikshank's notations on them, students of his work are likely to rely upon this catalogue for their conclusions. This volume has an index.

The John Carter Brown Library *Bibliotheca Americana* is printed with the perfection of typographic detail which characterizes everything that bears the imprint of Mr. Updike's Merrymount Press. The titles in this Part are given in full, with line endings, but a reference to Pollard (the British Museum Catalogue of Fifteenth Century Books), Brunet, and other authorities usually takes the place of a collation, and bibliographical and explanatory notes are omitted. The catalogue, however, is made more complete than its predecessor by

listing briefly the illuminated manuscripts, early printed books, Aldines, facsimiles, and reprints belonging to the library.

The English members of the Society may be interested in, and perhaps can supplement, two studies that are tucked away in the publications of American local societies. One is an account of Gregory Dexter, master printer and companion of Roger Williams, whose career is described by the librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society in its *Collections* for October 1919, with a list of 70 titles with which he had to do between 1641 and 1644. The other, by Alfred C. Potter of the Harvard Library, in the *Publications* of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts for March of this year, is an attempt to identify the 250 entries in the original list of the books left by John Harvard, which formed the nucleus from which the University library has grown. Forty of these defy him, although there must be some one who can see through *Chareus in Epist.* or *Household Phys.* of 1636. Harvard owned about 400 volumes, representing 329 titles. All but one of these books were burned with the rest of the college library in 1764, but Mr. Potter has succeeded in restoring, either in the identical edition or in one that John Harvard might have owned, over sixty per cent. of the titles identified.

Interest in books about the theatre has been stimulated by 'A Catalogue of the Allen A. Brown Collection of Books relating to the Stage in the Public Library of the City of Boston' and by 'The Development of Scenic Art and Stage Machinery, A List of References in the New York Public Library'. The New York list, of more than 2,471 entries, appeared in the library's Monthly *Bulletin*, and is arranged under 21 headings with author and subject indices. The Boston Catalogue occupies 952 pages with a dozen to twenty entries on a page. It will interest professional librarians as an illustration of the extent to which a large American library carries the practice of cross references, the titles

checked appearing, on an average, rather more than three times each. With these two should be mentioned the Sale Catalogue of books from the library of Evert J. Wendell, in six parts, 27 sessions, 8,212 numbers with a large proportion of bundles, because Mr. Wendell, who has been known as a most omnivorous collector of theatrical material, left his books to Harvard, and those offered at auction were such as the Harvard library presumably already possessed.

The University of Michigan General Library, which begins the New Year in its new building, inaugurates a series of 'Publications' with a catalogue of its Carlyle Collection, the gift of an enthusiastic collector who ranged the outskirts of his subject. Transylvania College in Kentucky has issued a list of its 171 'Rare and Curious Old Works on Medicine, Law, and the Humanities printed before 1700', most of which were apparently picked up, perhaps at attractive prices, by members of the college faculty travelling in Europe somewhat less than a hundred years ago. There are three English imprints before 1640, but no fifteenth century dates.

Robert E. Cowan of San Francisco has printed a 'Bibliography of the Spanish Press of California, 1833-1845', which would be wholly praiseworthy if it contained facsimiles. Fray Alonso de Benavides, who wrote on the natives of New Mexico in 1630, is the subject of a very workmanlike contribution by F. W. Hodge, the development of which is suggestive. This bibliography is No. 1 of Vol. III of the *Indian Notes and Monographs* issued by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. It is expanded from material put together in a volume printed privately at Chicago in 1916, which in turn was made up from a preliminary publication in *Land of Sunshine*, Los Angeles, California, 1900. The important new material in the present issue is from a contribution which appeared in the *Catholic Historical Review*, Washington, 1917.

G. P. WINSHIP.